

What is claimed is:

1. A method of providing text-to-speech streaming data using a distributed network based message processing system, said system including a user access server for controlling access of registered users to said system, an internetwork data retrieval
5 server for retrieving raw data from an internetwork, a text-to-speech server for converting said raw data to an audible speech data, and a memory storage output device for storing a streaming media file containing said audible speech data, a streaming media server for transmitting said audible speech data to said registered users via said internetwork, the method comprising the steps of:

10 authenticating a registered user;
retrieving said raw data from said internetwork;
parsing said raw data for text passages;
converting said text passages to said audible speech data;
converting said audible speech data to said streaming media file;
15 storing said streaming media file in a memory storage output device;
outputting a streaming media file to said registered user.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said user access server includes a new user registration module for registering and allowing access for said new user to said
20 system.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of registering a new user and allowing access for said new user to said system.

25 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of de-registering a registered user from said system.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said accessing said registered user includes customizing a user profile database containing user preferences.

30 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said raw data is retrieved from said internetwork in response to said user preferences.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein said registered user manually identifies a specific file or data block of said internetwork from which said raw data is retrieved from.

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8. The method of claim 1 wherein said system includes a LAN for linking said servers on said system.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein said retrieving step includes a plurality of data retrieval modules, and wherein each data retrieval module retrieves a specific type of said raw data.

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10. The method of claim 1 wherein said retrieving step includes transmitting a new data message to said text-to-speech server after said retrieving step.

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11. The method of step 1 further comprising the step of compressing said media file using a media encoder.

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12. The method of step 1 further comprising the steps of extracting meta-data from said parsed raw data and transmitting it with said streaming media file.

13. The method of step 12 wherein said meta-data is embedded in said streaming media file.

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14. The method of claim 12 wherein said meta-data includes non-text attachments.

15. The method of claim 12 wherein said meta-data includes header information from email messages.

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16. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of transmitting a new streaming file message to said registered user that said streaming media file is available in said output device.

17. A distributed network based message processing system for providing text-to-speech streaming data from an to a registered user on said system, said system comprising:

5 a user access server for authenticating said registered user and for allowing access to said system;

an internetwork data retrieval server linked to said user access server for retrieving of raw data within said internetwork;

10 a text-to-speech server linked to said retrieval system server for parsing said raw data, converting said parsed raw data to audible speech data, and for converting said audible speech data to a streaming media file;

a memory storage output device linked to said text-to-speech server for storing a streaming media file; and

15 a streaming media server linked to said memory storage output device for transmitting a streaming audio output of said streaming media file to said registered user.

18. The data retrieval system of claim 17 wherein said memory storage output device is located within said streaming media server.

20 19. The data retrieval system of claim 17 further comprising a LAN line for linking said servers.

20. The data retrieval system of claim 17 wherein said servers reside within a
25 common hardware device.

21. The data retrieval system of claim 17 wherein said user access server includes a new user registration module for registering and allowing access for said new user to said system.

30 22. The data retrieval system of claim 17 wherein said user access server includes a user de-registration module for removing said registered user from said system.

23. The data retrieval system of claim 17 wherein said user access server includes a user profile database storing respective user preferences.

5 24. The data retrieval system of claim 23 wherein said user preferences includes access information to an at least one media service available through a service provider coupled to said internetwork.

25. The method of claim 17 wherein said user preferences included identifiers
10 indicating said raw data for retrieving.

26. The data retrieval system of claim 17 wherein said registered user manually identifies a specific file or data block of said internetwork from which said raw data is retrieved from.

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27. The data retrieval system of claim 17 wherein said text-to-speech server parses said raw data for portions containing text and converts said text to said audible speech data.

20 28. The data retrieval system of claim 27 wherein said text-to-speech server includes a media encoder for compressing said audible speech data.

29. The data retrieval system of claim 28 wherein said text-to-speech server converts said compressed audible speech data to a streaming media file.

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30. The data retrieval system of claim 17 wherein said streaming media file includes a meta-data extracted from said raw data.

31. The data retrieval system of claim 30 wherein said meta-data includes non-text
30 file attachments.

32. The data retrieval system of claim 31 wherein said new data comprises an email message and wherein said meta-data includes header information from said email message.

5 33. The data retrieval system of claim 32 wherein said memory storage output device provides said streaming media file to said registered user.